

PUBLIC SAFETY



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Memorial Service Honors Missouri's Fallen Firefighters

JEFFERSON CITY, May 21, 2006—Three fallen firefighters were honored today during a memorial service at the Fire Fighters Memorial of Missouri in Kingdom City.

In the past 12 months Robert Allen Bestgen, Timmy Shane Hardy and Captain Alan Leake were lost to the injuries sustained while performing their duties as Firefighters.

“Today’s service is not only to honor the lives of these Firefighters, but to also recognize the sacrifices their families have endured,” said Randy Cole, State Fire Marshal.

Firefighter Robert Allen Bestgen of the Osborn Fire Protection District died on September 3rd, 2005 from injuries sustained during an incident the previous day at the U.S. 36 Raceway in Osborn. Bestgen was trying to stop a push truck that had slipped out of gear and appeared to be heading toward spectators. Bestgen served the Osborn Fire Protection District for twenty years.

Firefighter Timmy Shane Hardy of the Neosho Fire Department died on November 7th, 2005 while battling a fire at the Ragland Mills complex in Neosho. Hardy was killed when he became entrapped in a conveyor belt he was riding to the top of the grain elevator. Hardy began his firefighting career as a volunteer in 1994.

Captain Alan Leake of the Fulton Fire Department died on April 30th, 2006 after collapsing at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. Captain Leake began his fire service career on September 1st, 1982.

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In addition, the service honored the more than 20 Missouri Firefighters who died of non-line of duty causes since May 2005, including:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Julius M. Acoff, Jr.	University City FD	Dave E. Latham	Mid-County FPD (Camdenton)
Marty R. Baslee	Pettis County FD	Lonnie Lentz	Compton Junction FD, FFAM, State Fair FD
Anthony Bower	New Haven-Berger FD	Clinton Prinster	Wentzville FPD
Tom Claywell	Little Dixie FPD	Raymond Roberts	Vandalia Volunteer FD
Patrick E. Dick	Pattonville Bridgeton Terrace FPD	Dave Rudisaile	Festus FD, FFAM, State Fair FD
Sean "Skippy" Eason	Fulton FD	John Anthony "Jay" Sampietro, Jr.	Logan-Rogersville FD
Eugene F. "Jack" Elliott	El Dorado Springs FD	James William "Jim" Sanders	Central Jackson County FPD
Heath Heusted	City of St. Robert FD	Ricky Allen Seiner	Polk County Fire and Rescue
Quint L. Huffman	Millersburg FPD	Willis Walker Smith	Boone County FPD
John C. Johnson	Deer Creek FPD	Sidney F. Wilson IV	Stoutland FD
		James Wrzesinski	Lake Ozark FPD

For more information about the service, please contact State Fire Marshal Randy Cole at (573) 751-2930 or visit the Fire Fighters Memorial Foundation at <http://www.ffam.org/MEMORIALFOUNDATION.htm>.

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